

CLAIMS

1. A clamp for use in connecting a rod to a unit for use in fire spread testing of the unit, the clamp comprising:  
an outer surface, first and second ends and a through-hole provided between the first and second ends constructed and arranged to receive a rod;  
wherein the clamp is adapted to substantially center the rod within a hole in a unit through which the rod is inserted.
2. The clamp of claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the clamp includes a tapered portion converging toward one of the ends.
3. The clamp of claim 2, wherein the through-hole has a diameter and the tapered portion converges toward one of the ends to substantially the same diameter as the through-hole.
4. The clamp of claim 2, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp includes a frusto-conical shape.
5. The clamp of claim 2, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp has a varied angle of slope.
6. The clamp of claim 2, wherein the through-hole and tapered portion of the clamp are substantially centered with respect to one another.
7. The clamp of claim 2, wherein at least a part of the tapered portion of the clamp is adapted to fit within the hole of the unit into which the rod is inserted to substantially center the rod within the hole.
8. The clamp of claim 1, wherein the through-hole and rod have cross-sections that are substantially the same size.

9. The clamp of claim 8, wherein the hole in the unit has a cross-section that is greater than the cross-sections of the through-hole and rod.

10. The clamp of claim 9, wherein the outer surface of the clamp includes a tapered portion converging toward one of the ends, the end having a cross-section of a size between the cross-section of the hole in the unit and the cross-sections of the through-hole and rod.

11. The clamp of claim 1, further comprising:  
an opening provided in the outer surface, the opening extending to and intersecting the through-hole,  
wherein the clamp may be secured to the rod at a desired position by providing a fastener in the opening.

12. A clamp for use in connecting a rod to a unit for fire spread testing of the unit, the clamp comprising:  
an outer surface, first and second ends and a through-hole provided between the first and second ends constructed and arranged to receive a rod;  
wherein the clamp is adapted to substantially block a hole in the unit through which the rod is inserted.

13. The clamp of claim 12, wherein the outer surface of the clamp includes a tapered portion converging toward one of the ends.

14. The clamp of claim 13, wherein the through-hole has a diameter and the tapered portion converges toward one of the ends to substantially the same diameter as the through-hole.

15. The clamp of claim 13, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp includes a frusto-conical shape.

16. The clamp of claim 13, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp has a varied angle of slope.

17. The clamp of claim 13, wherein the through-hole and tapered portion of the clamp are substantially centered with respect to one another.

18. The clamp of claim 13, wherein at least a part of the tapered portion of the clamp is adapted to fit within the hole of the unit into which the rod is inserted to substantially block the hole.

19. The clamp of claim 12, wherein the through-hole and rod have cross-sections that are substantially the same size.

20. The clamp of claim 19, wherein the hole in the unit has a cross-section that is greater than the cross-sections of the through-hole and rod.

21. The clamp of claim 20, wherein the outer surface of the clamp includes a tapered portion converging toward one of the ends, the end having a cross-section of a size between the cross-section of the hole in the unit and the cross-sections of the through-hole and rod.

22. The clamp of claim 12, further comprising:  
an opening provided in the outer surface, the opening extending and intersecting to the through-hole,  
wherein the clamp may be secured to the rod at a desired position by providing a fastener in the opening.

23. A method of fire spread testing, the method comprising the steps of:  
providing a unit to be tested, the unit having a hole;  
providing a line burner for insertion through the hole into the unit;

providing a clamp having an outer surface with a tapered portion and a through-hole extending through the clamp;

sliding the line burner through the through-hole of the clamp;

securing the clamp to the line burner;

inserting the line burner through the hole in the unit to be tested at least until the tapered portion of the clamp abuts against the hole of the unit; and

igniting the line burner.

24. The method of claim 23, the step of inserting the line burner further comprising:

inserting at least a portion of the tapered portion within the hole when the tapered portion of the clamp abuts against the hole.

25. The method of claim 23, the step of inserting the line burner further comprising:

substantially centering the line burner within the hole when the tapered portion of the clamp abuts against the hole.

26. The method of claim 23, the step of inserting the line burner further comprising:

substantially blocking the hole when the tapered portion of the clamp abuts against the hole.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp includes a frusto-conical shape.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the tapered portion of the clamp has a varied angle of slope.

29. The clamp of claim 23, wherein the through-hole has a diameter and the tapered portion converges toward an end of the clamp to substantially the same diameter as the through-hole.

30. The method of claim 23, wherein the hole in the unit and the through-hole in the clamp have cross-sections, the tapered portion converging toward an end of the clamp, the end having a cross-section of a size between the cross-section of the hole in the unit and the cross-section of the through-hole.

31. The method of claim 23, wherein the through-hole of the clamp is substantially centered relative to the tapered portion of the clamp.

32. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:  
aligning gas holes provided on the line burner to face a desired direction within the unit.

33. The method of claim 32, the step of aligning further comprising:  
providing an indicator on the line burner, wherein the indicator is adapted to indicate the position of the gas holes of the line burner.

34. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of igniting occurs prior to inserting the line burner into the hole.

35. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of igniting occurs after inserting the line burner into the hole.